



THE RED & BLACK COORDINATION

PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ

AND EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY
FOR THE RELEASE

OF MOROCCAN JOURNALISTS OMAR RADI AND SOULAIMAN
RAÏSSOUNI,

AND OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS IN MOROCCO

THE RED AND BLACK COORDINATION

Confederacion General del Trabajo (CGT-E) - Spain / Confédération Nationale du Travail (CNT-F)
- France / Libertarian Syndicalist Union (ESE) - Greece / Inicjatywa Pracownicza (IP) - Poland /
Union Sindicale Italiana (USI) -Italia / Solidaridad Obrera (SO) - Spain / Svensk Arbetaren
Centralorganisation (SAC) - Sweden

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Press Communiqué and Emergency Appeal for International Solidarity

WE APPEAL FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

AND DEMAND THE RELEASE OF MOROCCAN JOURNALISTS

OMAR RADI AND SOULAIMAN RAÏSSOUNI,

AND OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS IN MOROCCO

The Unions of the Red and Black Coordination (CGT-E, CNT-F, ESE, IP, USI, SO, SAC), wish to express their full support for Moroccan journalists Omar Radi and Soulaïman Raïssouni, in pre-trial detention since long month without any justification, in Oukacha jail at Casablanca.

We draw the attention of journalists, trade unions, political associations, and the general public to the current repression in Morocco of human rights and independent journalists.

The crackdowns in recent years Morocco have been growing in intensity since the February 20 Movement, the popular protest since 2016 in the Rif region, and also against all popular struggle in different place in the country (Imider, Jerada, Zagora), and in this moment the national coordination of contractual teachers is facing a brutal repression. Indeed, today there are more than 600 political prisoners in Morocco, and the intimidation, harassment and lawsuits are multiplying. Human rights activists, social movement activists, trade unionists and journalists are directly targeted.

In Morocco, journalists (and not only) face a repressive system : close and systematic surveillance, certain subjects of investigation are very risky and represent red lines not to be crossed : the corruption of the ruling class, the king, Western Sahara, and now also the intelligence services. The risk is heavy prosecution : accusation of defamation, attack on the sanctity of the king, attack on a representative of public authority, attack on state security. With sentences that can be tens of years in prison. Covering social movements also poses a risk of being a direct target. We think of **Hamid El Mahdaoui, Abdelali Houd, Mohamed El Asrihi, Rabia El Ablak, Hussein El Idrissi, Foued Essaidi, Jawad El Sabiry** who were detained to inform about the Hirak movement of the Rif region.

We denounce the methods of the Moroccan authorities of bringing abusive accusations to smear journalists, and which result in heavy penalties : instrumentalization of questions related to terrorism, accusations of espionage, accusation of money laundering, or recently an instrumentalization of struggles against violence against women and sexist, and struggles of LGBT people, as well as issues of "morals", for purposes of political repression. We think of the recent cases of journalists **Hajar Raïssouni, Taoufik Bouachrine, Soulaiman Raïssouni, Omar Radi, and Hicham Mansouri** a few years ago. We denounce the recent convictions of journalists **Maati Monjib, Abdessamad Aït Aïcha, Hisham Khrinchi, Mohamed Sber, Rachid Tarik Maria Moukrim** accused of undermining the internal security of the State, (with a year of detention for some of them), without even opening of their trial postponed since 2015.

We denounce the defame press which serves the monarchy and participates actively in repression.

Judicial harassment is a tool of the regime, it uses well-known methods of attrition : prosecutions with postponed trial hearings, pre-trial detention with endless postponements as well. The authorities often practice mafia pressure through threats from relatives and families, or blackmail, division of support. Corruption attempts are very common. This repression leads to the regular closure of media outlets. For Saharawi journalists in the occupied territories of Western Sahara, repression is also important but in addition they face the reality of the colonial occupation, we think of **Mohamed Lamin Haddi**.

The repressive fury of the Moroccan authorities continues via its judicial tool !

The use of extremely heavy sentences awarded without proof (such as the **Saharawi political prisoners of Gdeim Izik, the political prisoners of the Hirak movement of the Rif region**); **cybersurveillance** with sentences to months in prison for simple publication of a tweet, sharing of video on social networks, expression in the face of precariousness, repression, corruption. There is often a **failure to respect the basic rights of defense of the accused, and legal procedures. From convictions without even information to the defense of holding a trial. False victims presented in criminal proceedings**, with the same pressure and threats on people. **Or the change from witness to accused status** as for journalist **Imad Stitou**, the only witness in Omar Radi's defense on the rape charge ; accused of "indecent assault and complicity in rape" without the person who lodged the complaint even naming him. **The judges even go so far as to expel from the Tribunal, or even from the territory, lawyers of political prisoners. The conditions of detention are also very difficult.** Refusal of provisional release without reason, placement in solitary confinement for months and years, without visits, limitation of mail, limitation of telephone calls, no suitable medical care, humiliations. Physical torture is still practiced in Morocco with some detainees with lifelong consequences, even death. Morocco was also condemned in 2016 by the UN committee against torture in the case of Saharawi political prisoner **Naama Asfari**.

Faced with this only the struggle and mobilization pay off,

we call for international solidarity for the release of political prisoners in Morocco!

Hunger strikes have always been one of the last means of protest and collective mobilization behind bars. We stand in solidarity with the political prisoners in Morocco who have led hunger strikes, whether they are students, trade unionists, arrested demonstrators, Youtubers, Saharawi

political prisoners from Gdeim Izik's group, Rif political prisoners, Maati Monjib and Chafik Omerani before their release, and today Omar Radi, Soulaïman Raïssouni.

Chafik Omerani, Youtubeur arrested in early February 2021, sentenced at the end of March to 3 months in prison, was released on May 6 after almost 90 days of hunger strike.

Mohamed Boutaam, journalist, was on hunger strike since his arrestation May 4. He was working about corruption. He has just been acquitted by the Tiznit court on May 10.

Soulaïman Raïssouni is on hunger strike since April 8, for more than a month, demanding his release waiting his trial. His health is very critical, and he has lost over 25kg.

Omar Radi has been on hunger strike since April 9, a strike suspended temporarily on April 30 to its 22nd day, for serious health reasons. He is also asking for his release waiting his trial.

None of them have adequate medical care.

Omar Radi refused the hearing of his April 27 trial : a hearing imposed remotely by videoconference, alone, from prison, and not in court alongside his lawyers and relatives. This is also contrary to the code of criminal procedure. Hearing postponed to May 18, same day as Soulaïman Raïssouni's hearing. They both have the same lawyers. Having the two hearings on the same day is intimidating. We fully support Omar Radi, Soulaïman Raïssouni, and demand their immediate and unconditional release. They are asking for fair trials.

We call for an international mobilization to break the media blackout on the current situation in Morocco of which our comrades, colleagues, and the Moroccan people are victim in their struggle for social justice against the dictatorship, the repression and systematic torture, the political trials, insecurity and exploitation.

The Red and Black Coordination denounces the obstacles to freedom of the press and freedom of speech, but also the current shackling of political, trade union and association liberties that is taking place in Morocco.

The Red and Black Coordination demands the immediate release of Omar Radi, Soulaïman Raïssouni and all political prisoners in Moroccan jails, and also demands the immediate dismissal of charges against them!

We call on union and political organizations and associations and comrades to express their support by sending en masse a letter by mail to the Moroccan authorities (sample letter below with mail contacts) requesting the release of Omar Radi, Soulaïman Raïssouni and all political prisoners.

A Blow to One is a Blow to All !

International Solidarity !

#FreeKoulchi

The Red and Black Coordination,

Confederation General del Trabajo (CGT-E) - Spain

Confédération Nationale du Travail (CNT-F) – France

Libertarian Syndicalist Union (ESE) - Greece

Inicjatywa Pracownicza (IP) - Poland

Union Sindicale Italiana (USI) -Italia

Solidaridad Obrera (SO) – Spain

Svensk Arbetaren Centralorganisation (SAC) – Sweden.

Example of MODEL LETTER TO BE SENT TO THE AUTHORITIES :

→ Subject line : EMERGENCY – Immediate release for Omar Radi and Soulayman Raïssouni and all political prisoners in Morocco

→ Text :

" (City / Country, ... / ... / 2021)

(... Your name or the name of your organization)

We demand the immediate release of journalists Omar Radi and Soulayman Raïssouni who are in pre-trial detention since very long months without any justification, at Oukacha jail in Casablanca.

We denounce their placement in solitary confinement and the restrictions they are subjected to. Also, we strongly denounce the refusal by your authorities for them to benefit from appropriate and decent medical care, in particular since the start of their hunger strike, and all health consequences are directly your responsibility.

We denounce the Moroccan justice which pursues, locks up, condemns with heavy sentences human rights defenders, journalists, students, trade unionists, teachers, YouTubers, inhabitants, high school students who dare to organize or speak out. This justice is the direct administration of this monarchy which crushes everything in its path.

We express our full solidarity with the journalists who suffer heavy charges from your authorities, including simply participating in the defense of free and independent investigative journalism.

We denounce the barriers against freedom of the press and expression, as well as violations of political, trade union and association freedoms in Morocco today.

We demand the release of all political prisoners in Moroccan jails which represent more than 600 people, and we demand the cancellation of the proceedings against them!

Freedom for all political prisoners in Morocco!

No forgetting, No forgiveness! "

CONTACTS OF MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES :

→ To facilitate simple “copying and pasting”, here is a list of email contacts :

courrier@pm.gov.ma, ministere@maec.gov.ma, ccdhdh@ccdhdh.org.ma, cndhdh@cndhdh.org.ma, contact@didh.gov.ma, morocco@telia.com, athens@embassyofmorocco.gr, correo@embajada-marruecos.es, ambmaroccoroma@maec.gov.ma, info@moroccoembassy.pl, mission.maroc@ties.itu.int, mission.maroc@skynet.be, info@amb-maroc.fr, cons.bastia@maec.gov.ma, consumab2@wanadoo.fr, cgmarmoc.colombes@gmail.com, cgrm.dijon@maec.gov.ma, consumalille@maec.gov.ma, cons.mars@wanadoo.fr, consumamontp@wanadoo.fr, consulatoreans@maec.gov.ma, cgm.orly@maec.gov.ma

Saad-Eddine El Othmani, head of government of the kingdom of morocco

Fax : +212 53 7771010 ; Twitter : [@ChefGov_ma](#)

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation : ministere@maec.gov.ma

Justice Ministry : ccd@ccd.org.ma

Mme Amina BOUAYACH, Pdte Conseil national des droits de l'Homme : cndh@cndh.org.ma

Monsieur Mustapha Ramid, Ministre d'État chargé des droits de l'Homme : contact@didh.gov.ma

In Europa :

Ambassy of Morocco in Sweden: morocco@telia.com

Ambassy of Morocco in Greece : athens@embassyofmorocco.gr

Ambassy of Morocco in Spain: correo@embajada-marruecos.es

Ambassy of Morocco in Italia: ambmaroccoroma@maec.gov.ma

Ambassy of Morocco in Poland : info@moroccoembassy.pl

Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland : mission.maroc@ties.itu.int

Ambassador of Morocco Mission to the European Union : mission.maroc@skynet.be

In France :

Ambassy of Morocco Paris : info@amb-maroc.fr

Consulate General Bastia : cons.bastia@maec.gov.ma

Consulate General Bordeaux : consumab2@wanadoo.fr

Consulate General Colombes : cgm Maroc.colombes@gmail.com

Consulate General Dijon : cgrm.dijon@maec.gov.ma

Consulate General Lille : consumalille@maec.gov.ma

Consulate General Marseille : cons.mas@wanadoo.fr

Consulate General Montpellier : consumamontp@wanadoo.fr

Consulate General Orleans : consulatorleans@maec.gov.ma

Consulate General Orly : cgm.orly@maec.gov.ma

Consulate General Pontoise : cgm.pontoise@maec.gov.ma

Consulate General Rennes : consumarenne@wanadoo.fr

Consulate General Strasbourg : consumastras@noos.fr

Consulate General Toulouse : consulatgeneralatoulouse@gmail.com

Consulate General Lyon : consulatmaroclyon@maec.gov.ma